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MILJØVERNDEPARTEMENT

Royal Ministry of the Environment

Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants
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SHe

Your ref

Our ref
200500709-/HHE

Date

28 JAN 2005

Proposal to add a new substance to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Dear Sirs,

On 17th May 2004, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) entered into force. According to article 8.1 of this convention, a Party may submit proposals for the listing of further substances in the annexes.

Norway proposes that *pentabromodiphenyl ether* (penta-BDE) be added to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.

The information specified in Annex D is contained in the enclosed report by the Nordic countries on penta-BDE as a global POP, TemaNord 2001:579, also to be found on the Internet: <http://www.norden.org/miljoe/uk/pentaBDEfinal.pdf>. The report shows that penta-BDE fulfil the screening criteria contained in annex D.

An addendum to the report has been developed in connection with the work of the UNECE POP-protocol under the Convention on Longe-Range Transport of Air Pollution, where penta-BDE is being considered as a possible addition to the protocol. The addendum is enclosed, and can also be found on the Internet: http://www.unece.org/env/popsxg/docs/2000-2003/pentabromodiphenyl_ether_add.doc

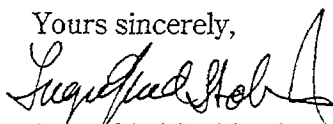
In addition, Norway has recently carried out further studies on penta-BDE. Very high concentrations of penta-BDE have been found in fish from Mjøsa Lake in Norway, and the study confirms that penta-BDE biomagnifies (Fjeld et.al. 2004). In another study

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from Bear Island, penta-BDE was found in all plasma and egg samples from glaucous gulls (Verrault et al. 2004). This study confirms the long range transport of penta-BDE to the Arctic and bioaccumulation in food webs. The complete references and Internet links to these studies are enclosed.

We ask that the Secretariat forward this proposal to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee as soon as this committee has been established.

Yours sincerely,



Inger Glad Stokland
Director General



Henrik Hallgrim Eriksen
Senior Adviser

Copy (without enclosures):
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT)

Enclosures 3